3:Will and Spinden E-5 (1905) 1906
NQ17 Mandan NQ17

142 grey. He also says there were several children whose hair was perfectly grey, these were mostly girls.

Catlin[1] possibly exaggerates the physical differences. His account states that their personal appearance at once showed them as more than savages; there were many shades of complexion and hair; many women had white skin with hazel, blue, and grey eyes; they showed every shade of hair except red; some had hair perfectly white or a silvery grey, women more than men; the grey hair was very coarse, while the other hair was fine and soft.

Maximilian took particular pains to ridicule the theory of white origin and especially that of Welsh origin. But even he admits the peculiarity of complexion seen at times. On this subject he said that they were usually brown or copper colored, some were yellow or whitish. When clean there were a number who were nearly white with red cheeks; they had long coarse hair usually black, but many children had brown hair; there were families with grey hair; one family contained members with brown, black, grey, and white hair and eye-lashes.[2] So much for color. There can be little question that there was a tendency toward light complexion among the Mandans, and all of the authorities, even Maximilian, express the opinion that this was not from contact with the whites. Among the Hidatsa and Crow as well is found the phenomenon of grey and white haired women and children, but there is no account of the brown, soft hair, and light skin further described by the earliest visitors to the Mandans. As to the cause of this light skin
● [143] which appeared now and then it is difficult to decide. It seems, however, to place the Mandans among the tribes where partial albinism was of frequent occurrence. It is almost needless to say that there is absolutely no trace either in language or in physical characteristics of any European origin or admixture.

141 Next is the question of size and general physique. Verendrye[3] says:—"The men are stout and tall, generally very active, fairly good looking. . . ." In a note appended to the location of an old Mandan village, on one of Lewis and Clarke's maps are the following words, "here human bones of large size."

[1] Op. cit., vol. I, p. 22. [2] Op. cit., pp. 274-5. [3] Op. cit., p. 21.